

ESF #2 - COMMUNICATIONS

Participating Departments/Agencies:

Department of Administrative Services
Division of Communications
Civil Air Patrol
Department of Roads
Education Telecommunications Commission
Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Military Department
Department of Natural Resources
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)
State Patrol
State Fire Marshal
University of Nebraska System

I. PURPOSE

- A. To plan and coordinate communications support to state and local response efforts before, during, and immediately following a Governor's emergency proclamation.
- B. To coordinate the communications assets (both equipment and services) available from state agencies, voluntary groups, local agencies, the telecommunications industry, and federal government agencies.
- C. To manage state communications resources which includes:
 - 1. Identifying communications facilities, equipment and personnel located in and outside the affected area(s) that could be made available to support response and recovery efforts;
 - 2. Identifying actual and planned actions of commercial telecommunications companies to restore services;
 - 3. Coordinating the acquisition and deployment of communications equipment, personnel and resources to establish temporary communications capabilities within the affected area(s).

II. SITUATION

A. Disaster Condition

Disasters such as Severe Weather Storm, Tornado, and Winter Storm can cause widespread damage to commercial telecommunications and electric transmission facilities. All surviving communications assets of the various state and local government agencies, as well as the Nebraska telecommunications industry, will be needed to ensure victims an immediate and effective response.

B. Assumptions

1. Initially, local emergency service organizations will focus on lifesaving activities. Local government officials will work toward re-established control in the disaster area. Local emergency operations organizations will become the central point of coordination and control for local response and recovery efforts.
2. Initial reports of damage may be fragmented and provide an incomplete picture of the damage to communications facilities.
3. Weather and other environmental factors may restrict mobile or transportable communications equipment into the affected area.
4. The affected area's ability to communicate may be impaired.
5. The type of natural disaster may necessitate the careful consideration of sites for establishing a consolidated agency operational area, such as an alternate SEOC for centralized field communications.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. ESF #2 will respond to requests for local communications assistance. It is anticipated that after initial response is completed, the majority of the requests for communications resources will be initiated by other ESFs to assist in providing aid to those in need.
- B. In support of ESF #2, the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Communications will provide a representative to serve as the NEMA designated ESF Coordinator (ESFC) for ESF #2. In the event of a potential or real disaster event, the ESFC will be notified by the SEOC. Upon SEOC request, the ESFC will be available to respond to communication-related requests submitted through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). When activation of the SEOC is implemented, and the NEMA requests, the ESFC will activate ESF #2, identify which participating departments/agencies are needed, and take steps to insure that the departments/agencies are activated or on alert as appropriate.

C. ESF #2 will:

1. Maintain a listing of all state communications assets available to support a response and/or recovery mission. Volunteer and local agencies with communications assets may be requested to contribute assets to the response effort. Industrial resources may also be considered for availability and effectiveness. Furthermore, availability, operations condition and duration of need must be considered. The logistical requirements necessary to obtain critically needed equipment will also be evaluated.
2. Accumulate damage information obtained from assessment teams, the telecommunications industry, the local emergency operations center and other local and state agencies;
3. Prepare a listing of all state communications assets available to support assigned missions;
4. Develop a response/recovery plan which includes the logistical requirements necessary to obtain critically needed equipment;
5. Prioritize and develop strategies for a coordinated response;
6. Pre-position resources when it becomes apparent that state communications resources will be required;
7. Coordinate movement of any communications resource that may be needed in recovery, from the potential disaster area to the nearest staging area;
8. Deploy the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) mobile communications vehicle located in Lincoln. This mobile resource has the ability to relocate to a disaster site and establish communication links;
9. Assess the need for, and obtain telecommunications industry support as required;
10. Prepare and process reports using established procedures, focusing specific attention to the production of after-action reports;
11. Continually reassess priorities to address the most critical communications needs;
12. Track resources which are committed to specific missions;
13. Re-deploy and re-stage resources as appropriate.

IV. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ESF #2 will utilize personnel and resources from participating departments/agencies to respond to mission assignments related to emergencies/disasters. Additional resources available at other ESFs may be coordinated and mobilized to support ESF #2 missions. When requests exceed the state's capability to respond, additional resources (i.e. federal resources, contractual agreements, and mutual aid agreements) will be mobilized. All personnel and resources mobilized by ESF #2 will remain under the direction and control of the ESFC #2, unless otherwise designated.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT	ITEM	PAGE
Appendix 1	State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Communications Plan	ESF 2-5
1	NAWAS Map	ESF 2-16
2	NAWAS Procedures	ESF 2-17
3	Nebraska Emergency Management Warning Network	ESF 2-18
Appendix 2	Emergency Public Information	ESF 2-19

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (SEOC) COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

I. PURPOSE

This Annex provides information and guidance concerning available communications and warning systems within the State of Nebraska. The total communications and warning system is discussed, and procedures for its use during emergency operations are outlined.

II. SITUATION

Many departments in the State government utilize their own discrete communications systems. Direct contact with most State communications systems is possible with equipment in use at the State EOC. Through the use of cross-channeling between agencies, additional capability can be provided on short notice where needed. Sufficient communications and warning capability exists to handle most emergency situations. In severe emergencies, augmentation of existing equipment and personnel may be required.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

Communications and warning are vital to the effective and efficient preparedness, response and recovery activities during emergency operations. Effective communications networks exist in the State of Nebraska for natural disasters and technological emergencies. Available equipment will be used for natural disaster and technological emergency operations and augmented during periods of international tension, terrorist or enemy attack.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The Nebraska Emergency Communications Center is located within the State Emergency Operating Center at 1300 Military Road in Lincoln, Nebraska. The State EOC provides a fallout protected area with communications equipment by which State government can discharge its emergency functions during man-made or natural disasters. Equipment includes that necessary to communicate with State agencies, county and city governments, and the Federal government. The SEOC is normally staffed Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

2. A Duty Officer (DO), selected from among the State Emergency Management Agency staff, is assigned each week to respond on a 24-hour basis to any emergency. The Duty Officer is pager and cell phone equipped, as are selected other NEMA personnel, to provide that 24-hour response capability. The pager may be activated by the Nebraska State Patrol, the National Weather Service, local and regional Emergency Managers and by other NEMA staff. All duty officer pagers and an additional pager located in the EOC communications room, are activated simultaneously. Upon notification of an emergency, or potential emergency, the duty officer will notify the manager on duty by phone. The DO may then handle the situation from his/her location at the time, or may voluntarily or when required by the Duty Officer SOP relocate to the EOC.

B. The State Emergency Operating Center

1. If conditions warrant, emergency operations activities for the State of Nebraska will be conducted at the Emergency Operating Center.
2. Should it be necessary to activate the EOC prior to or during a disaster, the EOC is equipped with adequate communications equipment to transmit and receive pertinent information and due to the location can be activated in a timely and efficient manner.
3. The State Emergency Operating Center serves as the Alternate State Warning Point for the National Warning System (NAWAS). The State Warning Point is located at the Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters, Lincoln. The SEOC will act as net control for NAWAS during regular EOC hours, during emergencies, or as the State Emergency Management Director may direct.
4. Although warning information can originate from several sources, all relevant warning information is passed via NAWAS to all warning points within the State. From the NAWAS warning points, information is disseminated to county warning points by the Nebraska Law Network (39.9 MHz). This system is outlined on the map of the Nebraska Emergency Management Warning Network. The Sheriff's radio is also used to disseminate warnings within each county. Other local radio services and telephones are also used to reach points within the counties. (See Attachment 1 & 2)
5. The three Nebraska Weather Service offices and the two nuclear power plants also have NAWAS capability.
6. The State Emergency Alert System is designed to provide disaster information and instructions to the public through the electronic media. The Governor, the State Emergency Management Director, and the Omaha Weather Service Office have the authority to activate the State EAS to provide information to the public. The SEOC provides direct radio links to the

Nebraska State Relay Network, whereby the Governor or State Emergency Management Director can speak directly to the public through commercial radio and TV stations throughout the State (see State EAS plan).

7. The State Emergency Operating Center has the responsibility to notify other State agencies which may be affected by, or have responsibilities in regard to a developing emergency situation. Contingency lists are on hand which list Federal, State, local and private entities which will be notified for various emergency situations. The above notifications will be performed by the Staff Duty Officer or other EOC personnel as appropriate.

C. SEOC Common Carrier Services

1. Weather Service Offices

A Weather Service NOAA teletypewriter service, receiver only, is located in the State EOC Communications Room. This teletypewriter prints everything that all six weather service offices put on the circuit.

2. Internal Paging

An internal paging system in the State EOC consists of loudspeakers located throughout the EOC which can be activated from any phone in the EOC by dialing 821.

3. Facsimile

An automatic high-speed facsimile machine is located in the Communications Center of the State EOC. It can be accessed by dialing 471-7433. Similar units are available for use by State EOC staff in the field.

4. Telephone Service

Telephone service in the State EOC is provided by AllTel utilizing the State Centrex System administered by the State Division of Communications. Service is neither protected nor secure. During emergency situations, there may be a need for additional telephone circuits at the SEOC. This augmentation can be accomplished through coordination with the State Division of Communications.

- a. The State EOC is served by 44 internal phones featuring direct in-and-out dialing, call transfer, conference calling, call pick-up, internal paging, call park. In addition, one phone is authorized direct Defense Switching Network (DSN) access, and eight are an advanced feature SL-1 units. Four secretarial answering units allow pickup of all incoming calls during duty hours.

- b. A secure telephone unit, (STU-3) allows secure verbal communications between the State EOC and other State Emergency Management Departments, as well as other Federal installations. A security clearance from FEMA is required in order to use this instrument.
- c. The Federal Telephone System (FTS) is available only to USDA personnel, and for their use, a single station FTS phone is located in the USDA office space allocated in the State EOC Operations Room.
- d. Two dedicated single station phones are located in the State EOC Communications Center connecting to the Fort Calhoun and Cooper Nuclear Power Plants.
- e. Eight Cellular telephone units are utilized for day-to-day administrative purposes, as well as disaster communications
- f. Three satellite phone units are available to take to the field for disaster response.
- g. Video Tele-Conferencing (VTC) capabilities for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Adjutant General.

D. SEOC Radio Services

- 1. Emergency radio service in Nebraska is provided by those radio resources available to the various local, State, Federal and private entities.
- 2. The radio capabilities which exist in the State EOC coupled with the outside structures and auxiliary power, provide radio service that depends on no outside resources, as long as the external antenna structures survive.
- 3. It may be appropriate for other State agencies to operate from the SEOC during an emergency. Through the use of radio, these agencies are able to maintain contact with operating forces located in the field.
- 4. The SEOC is equipped with two 50kw emergency generators and an independent fuel supply. Should a power outage occur, this equipment is capable of supplying emergency power for all SEOC functions for an extended period.
- 5. All antennas for SEOC communications are located on two sixty-foot towers and one one-hundred-forty-foot tower. Additional telephone poles are used to augment these structures.
- 6. The radio frequencies available and utilized in the EOC are:

- a. Operation Secure - high frequency single sideband communications to local EOCs across the State and FEMA Region VII states. SEOC call is KNDB.993

2.326 MHz T/R
2.804 MHz T/R
2.812 MHz T/R
5.192 MHz T/R
7.805 MHz T/R
7.935 MHz T/R

- b. FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) this is an electromagnetic pulse protected HF single-sideband radio capable of transmitting and receiving 1.8 - 30.0 MHz with voice, phone patch, CW and radio teletype service provided by the Federal government to all states. The only installation in Nebraska is in the State EOC. The purpose of this service is to provide Emergency Management communications between states and regional Federal Emergency Management Agency operating centers. The SEOC call is WGY-957 and NEMA is a member of the SHARES Federal Government H.F. System. Common FEMA operating frequencies are:

3.388 MHz T/R
4.780 MHz T/R
5.211 MHz T/R
5.402 MHz T/R
6.106 MHz T/R
7.348 MHz T/R
10.493MHz T/R

- c. Amateur Radio (RACES and ARES) the SEOC is equipped to operate on most Amateur radio frequencies during any emergency (call letters WQMAO). The following frequencies are monitored on a regular basis:

3.982 MHz T/R
7.282 MHz T/R
147.93 T - 147.33 R
449.90 T – 444.90 R
145.03 MHz T/R Packet Radio

- d. Statewide Public Service Frequencies - (capability exists at SEOC as well as NEMA vehicles)

Sheriff - 39.9 T/R
Fire - 39.98 T/R
Medical - 39.82 T/R

- e. Nebraska National Guard the SEOC provides communications capability for all high frequency single sideband channels as well as the following VHF-FM frequencies:

38.5 MHz T/R
38.6 MHz T/R
38.7 MHz T/R
38.8 MHz T/R

In addition, NEMA vehicles are equipped for 38.6 MHz T/R capability.

- f. State Emergency Management UHF Radio System NEMA has two UHF repeater systems capable of operation either at the SEOC or at a disaster site when needed. When located at a disaster site, these portable systems have the capability to support local government direction and control needs when appropriate.

System 1

One Motorola 30 watt UHF portable repeater
453.650T - 458.650R
Twenty (20) 2 watt UHF handheld radios
458.650T - 453.650R

System 2

One Motorola 25 watt UHF portable repeater
453.725T - 458.725R
Twenty (20) 2 watt UHF handheld radios
458.725T - 453.725R
Four Motorola 25 watt UHF mobile radios
458.725T - 453.725R

- g. Nebraska State Patrol

42.46T - 42.30R
42.30T - 42.46R

- h. Nebraska Department of Roads

47.08T - 47.20R
47.20T - 47.08R
47.16T - 47.24R
47.24T - 47.16R

- i. Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

151.205T - 159.330R

j. Emergency Alert System

State EOC to Nebraska ETV - 155.925 T/R

State EOC to KFOR Area #1 Primary Station - 161.670 T/R

k. Citizen's Band Communications

40 channel 11 meter AM/SSB capability

l. Civil Air Patrol Communications

4.506 MHz T/R 7.920 MHz T/R

4.509 MHz T/R 143.75 T 148.15 R

4.582 MHz T/R 143.90 T 148.15 R

7.635 MHz T/R 149.925 MHz packet

E. Other Communications Resources

The State Emergency Management Mobile Operations Center (CRUSH) is a pull type trailer mobile home equipped with a 5.5 kw emergency generator and portable antennas capable of operating from a disaster scene in order to provide emergency communications in the surrounding area as well as long range communications back to the State EOC when required. When operational at a disaster scene, the CRUSH can provide the following communications capabilities:

1. UHF repeater 453.725T - 458.725R
2. Twenty UHF handheld radios 458.725T - 453.725R
3. UHF repeater 453.650T - 458.650R
4. Twenty UHF handheld radios 458.650T - 453.650R
5. Kenwood high frequency single sideband transceiver covering FNARS, Operation Secure and Amateur frequencies
6. Air-to-ground transceiver
7. Army National Guard Base, 38.5, 38.6, 38.7, 38.8 MHz T/R
8. Nebraska State Patrol
9. Cellular and Satellite telephones
10. Programmable scanner (VHF, Hi-Lo, UHF)

11. Sheriff's radio net, 39.9 T/R
12. State Fire, 39.98 T/R
13. State Medical, 39.82 T/R
14. Amateur FM, 144 to 148 MHz T/R and 420 to 450 MHz T/R
15. Amateur 2 meter Packet radio
16. Lo-band, field programmable transceiver, 30-50 Mhz
17. VHF, field programmable transceiver, 148-174 Mhz
18. UHF, field programmable transceiver, 450-480 Mhz

F. Communications Protection

1. Radio:
 - a. EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse) generated by detonation of a nuclear weapon is an element of damaging consequences to communications. Special precautions have been implemented to protect communications facilities and equipment from this damaging effect. These precautions are in keeping with good engineering practice as defined in FEMA CPG 2-17, January 1986. SEOC EMP protective measures include the following actions:
 - 1) The best solution to EMP protection is the installation of a "Faraday Cage". This device is basically a small room constructed entirely of conductive materials. All conductors of any type entering this room are bypassed to ground through an extensive radial system which effectively shields the contents of the room from any electromagnetic waves generated outside of this room. A complete high frequency single sideband station, telephone, teletype and VHF/UHF EBS radio links are contained therein and are immune to the effects of EMP.
 - 2) All AC transmission and generation equipment located within the SEOC is bypassed to ground with metal oxide varistors and other appropriate components.
 - 3) All antenna feedlines terminating within the SEOC have been bypassed to ground with metal oxide varistors and other appropriate components.

- b. Lightning has been guarded against by using standard lightning protective techniques during severe weather. The EMP techniques listed above are particularly effective for lightning protection.
- c. Wind and blast can damage antennas, but these can be quickly replaced. With sufficient warning, protective measures can be taken.

2. Telephone (Common Carrier):

- a. Telephone service during emergency operations is accommodated through 44 installed and readily available telephone lines from the SEOC to the State Centrex telephone system. The State Division of Communications can provide communications support by assisting NEMA in coordination, communications situation assessments, and recommendations. Additional telephone service or telephone priorities are usually requested from the State Division of Communications, who will coordinate with Nebraska telephone companies.
- b. Priority of service restoration shall be established by the Executive Staff and the Communications Manager.

3. Security:

Because of the vital role of communications facilities and equipment during emergency operations, particularly during periods of national emergency, the Communications Officer reserves the right to request "background investigations" on any person assigned to work in the EOC or its support elements, including the Communications Center.

G. Nuclear Crisis

- 1. Warning: warning of impending or actual attack will be received at the SEOC via the National Warning System (NAWAS). Procedures for alerting key officials and dissemination of warning instructions to the public are contained in the Nebraska State Warning Plan.
- 2. Reporting
 - a. Increase Readiness Reporting (IRR): during periods of increased international tension, each county should take actions to increase their civil preparedness. The IR report (see Attachment 9) will be submitted to the State EOC on a daily basis. The IR report will enable the state government to know which jurisdictions have acted, measures taken and change in readiness posture that have resulted. Requirements are set forth in CPG 2-10/2.

- b. Weapons Effects Reporting (WER): weapons effects will be reported from existing shelters to determine the radiological situation in and around the county so a decision can be made as to when to allow people to leave shelter. Each county will analyze fallout reports from shelters and forward by reporting area its worst case fallout situation to the State EOC. Requirements are set forth in CPG 2-10/6. (See Attachment 10)
- c. Crisis Relocation Reporting: status reports (See Attachments 5 & 6) will be made every 12 hours during the first three (3) days of crisis relocation; then every 24 hours thereafter to the State EOC via one of eighteen area reporting points. Requirements are set forth in CPG 2-10/7. (Also See Attachments 7 and 8)

V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The communications and warning function will be under the direction and coordination of the NEMA Communications Officer. The communications Officer is responsible for the maintenance of the overall communications capabilities within the SEOC Communications Center, and for advising executives on communications matters pertaining to their area of responsibility. The Communications Officer is also responsible for the staffing of a report section during disaster operations.
- B. The communications resources possessed by the local government agencies are normally adequate to provide the needed communications capabilities during a normal emergency situation. In a disaster situation, it is possible that local communications capabilities may be exceeded or exhausted. In such a situation, a request by local government for assistance may entail communications support from the NEMA. At the direction of the State Emergency Management Director, such assistance will be coordinated by the Communications Officer.
- C. The State Warning Point for the National Warning System is located at the Nebraska State patrol headquarters in Lincoln. During SEOC non-duty hours the State Warning Point will disseminate all NAWAS warnings throughout the state. In addition, NSP headquarters serves as the single contact point for local government to reach the NEMA Duty Officer at all hours. When contacted, NSP will immediately activate the Duty Officer paging system, thus ensuring quick response to any fast-developing disaster situation.
- D. The State Division of Communications will coordinate the augmentation of telephone circuits for state personnel at the SEOC or at any disaster scene when necessary.
- E. Coordination of an augmented radio communications capability will be under the direction of the NEMA Communications Officer, or Communications Assistant when appropriate. Augmentation will be accomplished largely through the

support of amateur radio operators and equipment to establish radio nets to provide expanded communications during emergencies. Further resources may be available through REACT and Civil Air Patrol.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Training

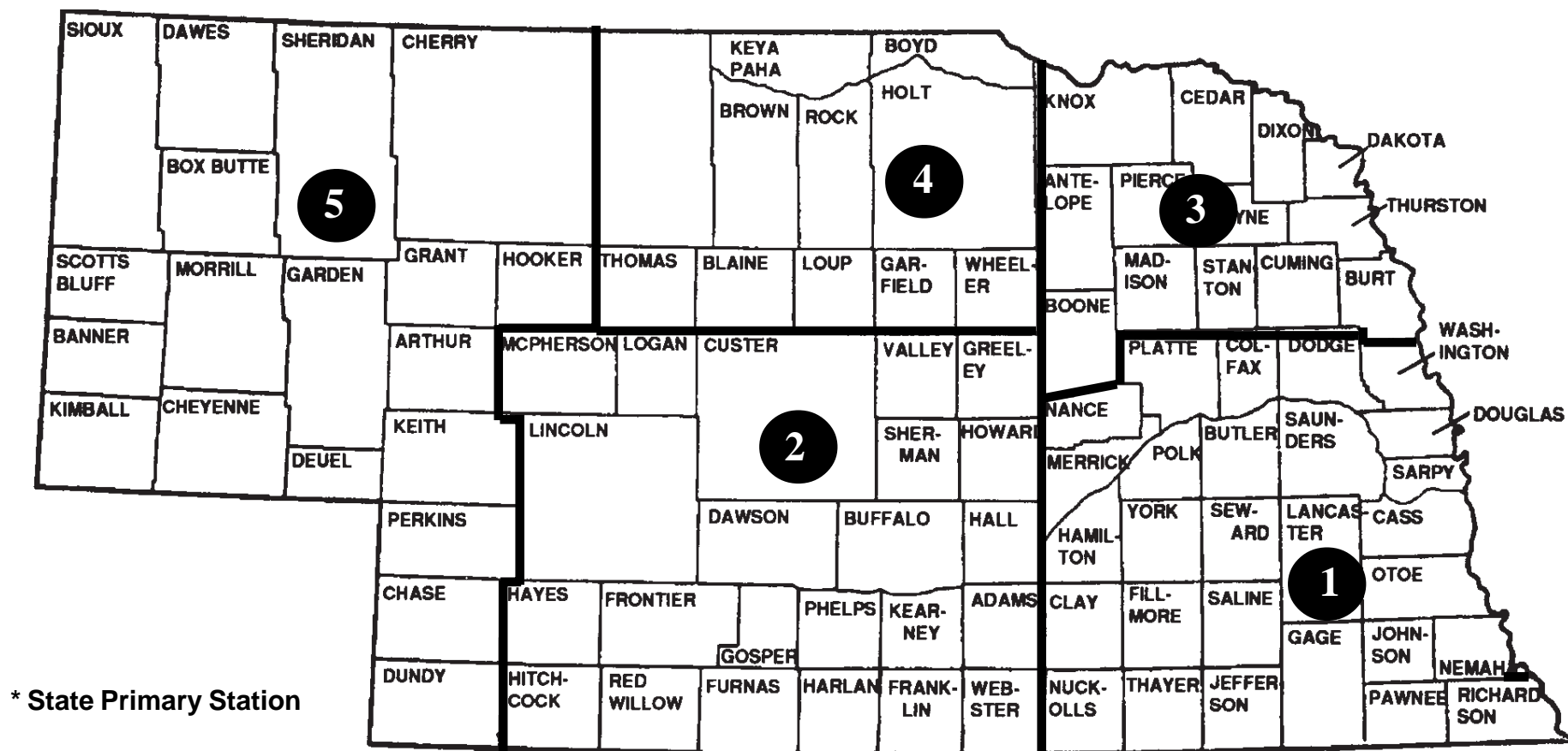
Each agency or organization assigning personnel to the EOC for Communications and Warning purposes is responsible for ensuring that those individuals are adequately trained to use the equipment, are familiar with the procedures of the EOC, and understand the unique operating procedures.

B. Plan Maintenance

The Communications Officer will be responsible for assisting the Emergency Management Director in the maintenance and improvement of this Annex. The Annex will be reviewed, updated, and modified as necessary, but not less than annually.

Nebraska Emergency Alert System Operational Areas

ESF 2-16



State Relay (SR) Stations in Nebraska

Alliance KTNE-fm 91.1
 Alliance KTNE-TV Channel 13
 Bassett KMNE-fm 90.3
 Bassett KMNE-TV Channel 7
 Chadron KCNE-fm 91.9
 Hastings KHNE-TV Channel 29

Lexington KLNE-fm 88.7
 Lexington KLNE-TV Channel 3
 Lincoln KUCV-fm 90.9
 *Lincoln KUON-TV Channel 12
 Merriman KRNE-fm 91.5
 Merriman KRNE-TV Channel 12

Norfolk KXNE-fm 89.3
 Norfolk KXNE-TV Channel 19
 North Platte KPNE-fm 91.7
 North Platte KPNE-TV Channel 9
 Omaha KIOS-fm 91.5
 Omaha KYNE-TV Channel 26

2003

National Warning System (NAWAS) Emergency Management Warning Procedures

Tests:

The State Warning Point for NAWAS is at the Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters, Lincoln. A daily operational test, using a dedicated telephone line, is sent to each Nebraska Warning Point (see map).

The Alternate State Warning Point is at the NEMA Emergency Operating Center, Lincoln. A weekly roll call or Fan-out test designated as, "**TEST, TEN-ONE-ZERO-ONE (10-101)**" is accomplished. The test message is relayed by radio from the Warning Points areas to the counties.

Each Warning Point will report to the Alternate State Warning Point either a:

Positive report from all counties in its area by an "**ALL CONFIRMED**" message, or a

Negative report when fan out stations do not respond such as:

Grand Island:
Alternate State Warning Point:
Grand Island:
Alternate State Warning Point

"Grand Island to Nebraska Alternate"
"This is Nebraska Alternate, OVER"
**"Negative copy, Howard and
Merrick Counties, OVER"**
"ROGER, Nebraska Alternate, OUT".

Warning or Attack:

State actions:

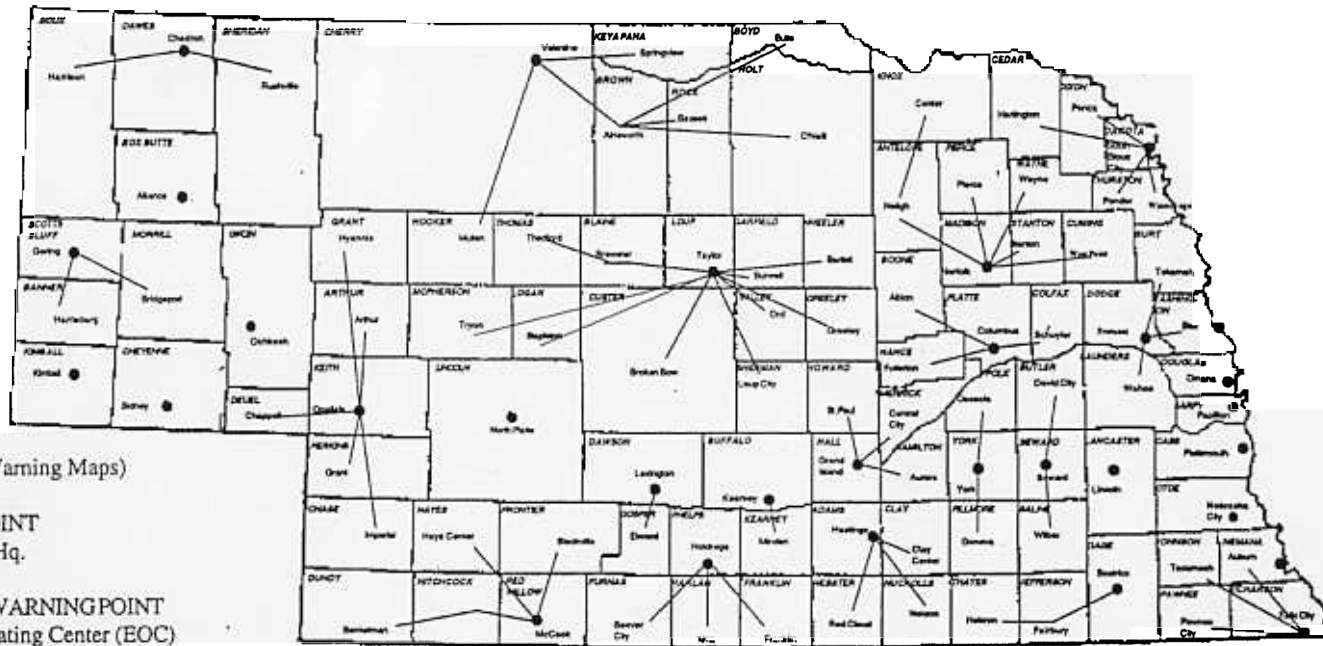
When a warning is received, the operator at the State Warning Point will clear the NAWAS network of all traffic, transmit the warning and then receive acknowledgement of the warning from each Warning Point. The Alternate State Warning Point provides a backup means of disseminating tactical warnings. The area Warning Points will immediately disseminate any warnings over the secondary warning network (39.9 MHz., Sheriff's Radio Network, see map on opposite side) thereby alerting each county in the State.

Locations:

Due to the large number of stations involved (93 counties); counties will acknowledge receiving the warning message to their respective Warning Points (NAWAS). Acknowledgement from the Warning Points will then be transmitted to the State Warning Point or to the Alternate.

The dissemination of the warning and warning information within the counties and municipalities is the responsibility of the Sheriff and/or local Police in accordance with the county Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). The goal of the "Attack/Warning" is to reach all persons potentially affected in adequate time to either "Take Cover" or complete other necessary actions.

Nebraska Emergency Management Warning Network



February 1999
(Supersedes previous Warning Maps)

STATE WARNING POINT
Nebraska State Patrol Hq.
Lincoln, Nebraska

ALTERNATE STATE WARNING POINT
State Emergency Operating Center (EOC)
Lincoln, Nebraska

- NAWAS - (National Warning System)
Special Telephone Lines

— RADIO - (Sheriff's Net)
39.9 MHz

Each Warning Point can ascertain its area of warning responsibility by following the arrows from a Warning Point

Warning Points will relay the warning or test to its respective counties.

All persons involved in the Nebraska Warning System should be aware that the Emergency Management FAN-OUT TESTS are termed, "Test, Ten-One-Zero-One".

NEBRASKA NAWAS SERVICE POINTS

- *Alliance, Police Department
- *Beatrice, Police Department
- *Chadron, Police Department
- *Cheyenne County, Sheriff's Office
- *Cheyenne, Wyoming Weather
- *Columbus, Police Department
- *Cooper Nuclear Power Station
- *Dakota County, Emergency Management Agency
- *Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Station
- *Fremont, Police Department
- *Fremont EOC
- *Garden County, Sheriff's Office
- *Goodland, Kansas Weather
- *Grand Island 911 Center
- *Grand Island EOC

- *Hastings, Emergency Center
- *Hastings EOC
- *Hastings Weather
- *Holdrege, Police Department
- *Kearney Buffalo Co. Comm Center
- *Kearney EOC
- *Kimball Consolidated Comm Ctr
- *Kimball EOC
- *Lexington, Police Department
- *Lincoln Emergency Communications
- *Lincoln EOC
- *McCook, Police Department
- *Nebraska Public Power, Doniphan
- *Norfolk, Police Department
- *North Platte, Police Department
- *North Platte Weather Service
- *Ogallala, Police Department

- *Omaha Commo, Div., Public Safety Dept.
- *Omaha/Valley Weather Service
- *Otoe County, Sheriff's Office
- *Otoe County EOC
- *Papillion, Sarpy Co Sheriff's Office
- *Plattsmouth, Sheriff's Office
- *Richardson County, Sheriff's Office
- *Richardson County EOC
- *Scotts Bluff County Consolidated Communications Center
- *Seward, Sheriff's Office
- *Sioux Falls Weather, South Dakota
- *Taylor, Reg 26 Communications Center
- *Valentine, Cherry Co Sheriff's Office
- *York, Sheriff's Office
- *York EOC

**24 Hour Active Warning Points*

EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION

I. PURPOSE

It is the intent of this plan to provide an overview of operations of the Joint Information Center (JIC) and the Media Release Center (MRC) during emergencies or disasters.

II. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

- A. During an emergency or disaster, natural or man-made, the NEMA Public Information Officer (PIO) will initially be positioned at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Lincoln at the direction of the Operations Officer. The EOC serves as the media's official point of contact for the duration of most incidents.
- B. If deemed necessary, a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established at the TAG complex in Lincoln, at the scene of the disaster, or at another designated location. The JIC will be a physical location where PIOs from involved state agencies co-locate to ensure the coordination and release of accurate and consistent information. This information will be disseminated quickly and accurately to the media and to the public.
 - 1. Wherever the JIC is located, the JIC must be equipped with telephone lines, internet connections, FAX capabilities, office equipment and supplies and adequate support staff. The scale of the incident will dictate the number of connections and quantity of equipment and staff. Rumor Control must have designated phone lines for the fielding of public inquiries.
 - 2. Designated personnel should be assigned to monitor the media, or a contractor should be retained to perform this function.
 - 3. For emergencies involving Nuclear Power Station incidents, a JIC or Media Release Center (MRC) has already been established at the following location:
 - a. For a Cooper Nuclear Power Station Incident, the JIC is located at the Nebraska Public Power District Headquarter, 1414 15th Street, Columbus, NE.
 - b. For a Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station Incident, the MRC is located at the Omaha Public Power District Headquarters, 444 South 16th Street Mall (see Agency directive 9302 for additional details).
- C. During disasters or emergencies, the Governor's Office shall provide policy guidance for the dissemination of all emergency public information, and shall designate the official State Spokesperson to brief the news media.

- D. The NEMA PIO shall coordinate with the Governor's Office on the release of all Emergency Public Information (EPI) during the incident.
- E. If a Presidential Disaster is declared, the NEMA PIO will work initially from the EOC. Once a Disaster Field Office (DFO) is activated, the NEMA PIO may co-locate there in conjunction with federal personnel and any other state personnel involved.
- F. Refer to the Federal Response Plan (FRP) for JIC procedures in the event that the FRP is activated.
- G. Dissemination of emergency public information will occur via all media outlets: internet, radio, television, newspaper and wire services.
- H. The NEMA PIO shall release overall information about:
 - 1. All counties affected by the emergency.
 - 2. The State's response to the crisis, and what actions or resources are being employed.
- I. Information is prepared and released to the media in accordance with established news release procedures on information gathering, verification and news dissemination.
- J. In most instances where a JIC is activated, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is activated in accordance with the State EAS Plan. Emergency Public Information can be broadcast directly to the public using the EAS System.
- K. The Governor's Communication Director directs, coordinates and supervises release of all state Emergency Public Information, news releases and emergency instructions at the JIC.
- L. Nebraska state government departments, agencies and divisions provide PIO personnel, as requested, in support of the EPI program. Through a JIC, state PIOs coordinate information with local, state and federal response personnel before release to the media and the public.
- M. The Governor's Communication Director or an official designee:
 - 1. Assembles and maintains an initial EPI staff at the EOC or JIC.
 - 2. Releases emergency information as necessary, or as directed by the Governor.
 - 3. Schedules and conducts briefings for the media.
 - 4. Conducts rumor control activities.

5. Coordinates release of information from federal, state, local and private-sector response organizations.
 6. Activates a JIC in a major or catastrophic event affecting either the state or the region.
 7. Requests use of additional PIOs from other agencies to support the JIC and other state EPI operations.
 8. Maintains a chronological record of disaster-related activities and news releases.
- N. State Government PIOs, under the auspices of and with the coordination of the JIC, may issue news releases and information relevant to their operations in the incident.
- O. Accompanying the NEMA PIO are:
1. Assistant PIO, who supports the PIO in all PIO matters and can act in the PIO's stead or to provide second shift relief.
 2. Situation Specialist (formerly "Staff Assistant").
 - a. This position is responsible for ensuring the fly-away kit is up to date and is taken to the JIC/MRC. This position also ensures a cell phone, printer and fax machine are taken to the JIC/MRC.
 - b. The Situation Specialist sets up the Nebraska Public Information desk in the JIC/MRC by establishing telephone contact with the EOC and furnishing the State EOC with the Public Assistance Hotline telephone number.
 - c. The Situation Specialist maintains telephone contact with the EOC through an open phone line. The EOC also has phone contact with the GAR. The GAR notifies the EOC of recommended protective action(s). This information is passed on to the Staff Assistant who in turn notifies the PIO, who generates the appropriate news releases.
 3. Situation Specialist/Scribe (formerly "Staff Assistant's Assistant")
 - a. The Situation Specialist/Scribe establishes contact with the State EOC via fax machine.
 - b. The Situation Specialist/Scribe maintains status boards, delivers news releases to the appropriate person who then makes copies for distribution and for the media briefings.
 4. Communications Specialist (formerly "Rumor Control")

- a. The Communications Specialist's responsibility is rumor control.
- b. Upon arriving at the JIC/MRC, the Communications Specialist (called Public Assistance Person by FEMA) calls and provides the Hotline number to the Situation Specialist.
- c. The Communications Specialist's duties entails answering incoming telephone calls from Nebraska citizens and responding to questions based upon known information provided to Rumor Control Section within the Joint Information Center/Media Release Center by news releases and other appropriate channels.
- d. The Communications Specialist advises the Situation Specialist of rumor trends in these calls.
- e. This position, in conjunction with the Situation Specialist, ensures the Rumor Control fly-away kit is up to date and taken to the JIC/MRC.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Governor or the designated representative is vested with the responsibility and authority for release of official information on state response operations in any disaster. In a major disaster requiring the use of the JIC, the Governor's Communication Director (or other official designee) shall serve as the State Spokesperson.
- B. NEMA has responsibility for gathering official information and coordinating its release with the Governor's Office. The NEMA PIO or another officially designated PIO serves as the Lead State PIO.
- C. When the NEMA PIO locates outside the SEOC, an Operations PIO is designated at the SEOC and coordinates work with other state PIO staff located there.
- D. Other state agencies with roles in the incident will provide PIOs at the JIC. These PIOs will coordinate their news releases with the NEMA PIO and the Governor's Communication Director.
- E. During a disaster when a JIC is activated, the Governor's Communication Director can task all state departments and their supporting agencies for public affairs information and media contacts. At the direction of the Communication Director, the tasked PIOs represent the State's viewpoint during an emergency. The tasked PIOs initially work out of the SEOC. However, these tasked PIOs could be deployed to the DFO, JIC or other State Response Operations.
- F. In a catastrophic event, additional state PIOs from state departments and their agencies not participating in a direct emergency response operation can be used

in the SEOC to gather information on the State's disaster response efforts. These areas may include: Search and Rescue, Health and Medical, Law Enforcement, Mass Care and other critical responsibilities.

1. State PIOs are assigned coverage of one or more of these response areas on a first and second-shift basis.
2. Information on response activities is coordinated with an Operations PIO at the SEOC and relayed to the Lead PIO at the JIC.

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